

White's Pond Study Committee

Minutes of February 14, 2011 Meeting

Committee members in attendance: Dick Downey, Ellen Duggan, Peter Reed,
Eugene Redner, Herb Symes

Committee members absent: Paul Boothroyd, Jim Fulton, Jason Kreil

Also in attendance: Jerry Flood Supt. of the D.P.W.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dick Downey and then recessed for 10 minutes to obtain a quorum.

Meeting reconvened at 6:10 after a quorum was established.

Motion made by Ellen Duggan and seconded by Peter Reed to accept the revised minutes of the February 7, 2011 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Ellen Duggan to nominate Dick Downey as Chairperson and Jim Fulton as Vice Chairperson of the WPSC. Motion seconded by Herb Symes. Motion passed unanimously to elect these individuals.

Motion made by Ellen Duggan to nominate Herb Symes as Secretary of the WPSC. Motion seconded by Peter Reed. Motion passed unanimously to elect this individual.

Dick Downey distributed a printed hand out correspondence received from Town Administrator, Mike Sullivan. The handout material contained information regarding the establishment of the water study from article 4 of a past town meeting and a copy of the committee's mission statement.

Next phase of meeting was a question and open discussion phase with committee members and Jerry Flood, Superintendent of the DPW.

Jerry explained that money for the study of White's Pond was included and approved in an article at town meeting, with money for the study included in the Enterprise Funds. Dick Downey expressed concern that the WPSC does not want to impose extra expense for the use of Woodard and Curran consultants.

Jerry said that we need to look at the resources that we have and are they useable with cost effectiveness. We need to look at other alternatives such as Old Marlboro well improvements. Green Meadow well has color and odor problems. The screen has to be cleaned once a year which helps increase our pumping capacity for a temporary period of time.

Jerry feels we need a real analysis of White's Pond which could be a very valuable asset with a surface treatment plant and also the possibility of developing wells at White's Pond as an alternative way to reduce the cost of the treatment plant. Jerry feels that the water line from White's Pond to Maynard could present the biggest problem for the project.

Ellen Duggan asked if the pipe was the most expensive item? Jerry said no. The problems he referred to were in relation to obtaining right of way issues and permitting from DEP, EPA, and The Department of Fish and Game. Permitting could take from 2-5 years.

Dick Downey asked how do we find the pipe route? Jerry said that we do have some plans and that Woodard and Curran will look into optional routes if the current route is not viable.

Dick Downey asked if the 8 inch pipe can be replaced by 15 to 16 inch pipe without upsetting Fish and Game. Jerry replied he was not sure but believed it could be done. Maybe offering fire hydrants to Fish and Game along the route could be a selling point to Fish and Game.

Dick Downey believes it to be important that any pipe laid along the route to Maynard be of a material able to sustain at least a 100 year lifetime.

Dick raised some concerns regarding operating costs versus capital costs. Jerry replied that there are many options to water treatment methods to consider.

Dick asked if Jerry had any historical records of annual water use from preferably the 1950's to current day.

Jerry replied that he and Woodard and Curran can compile that history but that it may be easier for him to obtain the data.

Dick also asked if any data could be obtained regarding the affect upon water use from the installation of low flow toilets.

Dick also asked about any possible data regarding loss of water due to leaks in the system.

Jerry replied that the department has done some work on leaks over the years. In the past unaccounted water use was in the 5% to 7% range. Leak detection study has fixed some leaks. He will try to get data in this regard.

Jerry stated that we do perform an Annual Statistical Report. All municipal buildings are metered.

Dick expressed interest in percentage of down time of wells for preventative maintenance, percentage of up time for wells. Can we get a real sense of what real capacity that we have?

Jerry said that he can get that information although some of the items he does not have real hard records. He did say that DEP requires a 2 day supply of water if wells were to go off line. 4-5 million gallons of water are stored in the tanks. The highest day of

pumping that he has seen was 1.9 million gallons pumped in a single day. We usually average less than 900,000 gallons pumped per day. DEP requires 65 gallons per day per person based upon the town's permanent population number.

Dick asked what is out optimal head room?

Jerry replied that the optimum that we should have is twice the pumping capacity that we need. If our largest source went down, we need an alternative sight to pump the same amount.

Dick asked where the 1.09 MGD figure came from?

Jerry replied that this is what DEP allows based upon the fact that DEP wants to protect the ground water shed. White's Pond lies outside the water shed and therefore would be a major asset to the town in this regard. We need additional water and if Rockland Ave. wells went down we would have a major problem. Rockland Ave well is newer than the other town wells, more reliable, produces better water quality than the gravel wells but it does cost more to pump from the Rockland Ave. bedrock wells.

Jerry will get the Withdrawal Permit for the committee.

Ellen Duggan asked about Scope of Work Report.

Jerry feels the committee can combine and add to the report.

Peter Reed feels that the committee should be more advisory and provide guidance to Woodard and Curran.

Dick Downey says we need to manage the Scope of Work Report by developing a Milestone Chart for Woodard and Curran.

Ellen asked about Hudson Power and Light providing electricity at White's Pond.

Jerry said that they are not providing any power at this time and that he does not anticipate any problems with them in the future.

Ellen asked why it seemed that Hudson and Sudbury were being treated differently than Stow when it came to cost sharing for a surface water treatment facility?

Jerry replied that Stow was just interested in water purchase. Possible that DEP could force us to supply even more water than we anticipated to Stow. Priority should be Maynard's water needs then the needs of Hudson, Sudbury and Stow.

Herb Symes asked if we could get a figure as to what it costs to pump a gallon of water?

Jerry replied that he can get that figure for the committee.

Herb recommended that water bills should show the consumer the actual number of gallons consumed versus consumption based upon cubic feet consumed. This would give the consumers a better idea of how much water they consume and hopefully a better incentive to conserve water.

Dick Downey we need from Woodard and Curran a Milestone Report prior to our next meeting on February 28th.

Dick Downey asked what do we want to present to Town Meeting ?

Jerry replied that we are not going to have a completed report for town meeting. It will be more of a general report and not too specific, in order not to raise people's expectations unrealistically. We should present data, depth of study and no recommendations.

Dick Downey asked when we should expect a "final report"?

Jerry replied in August or September time frame.

Committee decided no need to set up e-mail accounts at this time. Dick Downey will forward correspondence to Woodard and Curran.

Committee felt we should tie in with the town website. Dick will discuss this with the town manager.

With regard to technology search the committee currently has two engineers as members.

Ellen Duggan has resource contacts at UMass-Lowell.

Eugene Redner has contacts in California with water expertise.

Ellen Duggan made a motion to adjourn and Herb Symes seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Next Meeting of the White's Pond Study Committee will be February 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Building – Gianotis Room (201)